

**Clean Beaches Initiative
Annual Progress Summary 2008**

Grantee: **Trinidad Rancheria**
Project Name: **Trinidad Harbor and Beach Project**



Project Description /Purpose /Approach: The wastewater system for Trinidad Harbor suffered from deferred maintenance at the time Trinidad Rancheria purchased the Harbor in 2000. The existing on-site septic system is old and deteriorating and the leach field system has a history of failure. Despite repairs, the leach field could be near the end of its functional life because of a history of inadequate treatment and poor performance of the grease trap at the Seascapes Restaurant. The Rancheria has replaced portions of the Seascapes Restaurant septic system, but leach field problems will likely recur unless the existing primary

treatment facilities are replaced with advanced treatment.

Additionally, portable chemical toilets are currently being used due to the lack of a public restroom facility. The adjacent beaches are often used as an alternative to the chemical toilets. The service and maintenance required on chemical toilets increase the chance for damage, leaking, or spilling caused by accident or by operator error. This creates the possibility for Coliform contamination of the beach and harbor.

The Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health has continually monitored Coliform and Enterococcus concentrations at Trinidad Beach since February of 2003. As a result of this monitoring, public health warnings have been issued due to exceedences of County limits per AB 411 and California Department of Health Services (DHS) standards.

Project Scope: An existing storage shed will be replaced with a public restroom/janitorial storage area. To accommodate the larger restroom building footprint and the sewage treatment plant, the bank to the south of the proposed building location will be stabilized using a concrete retaining wall. The restrooms will be ADA-compliant and all appliances will be automatic and hands free.

A package wastewater treatment plant will replace the nine septic tanks that make up the existing system. Wastewater will be collected from the Seascapes Restaurant, public restroom, two guest houses and, in the future, a boat washing station. A 2,500 gallon septic tank will be installed upstream from the treatment plant to help buffer peak flows and screen out unwanted trash. A grease trap will be installed between the restaurant outlet and the buffer tank to collect excess grease from the restaurant. The treatment plant uses an enhanced aeration process in addition to screening, filtration and disinfection to treat the waste. The effluent will be treated to meet California's Title 22 Disinfected Tertiary Recycled Water standard to increase the longevity of the leach field and to allow for the future possibility of recycling.

Progress/Milestones Achieved/Schedule: Permit applications have been submitted to the City of Trinidad, the California Coastal Commission, and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Plans for the wall and public restrooms have largely been completed, pending final changes as a result of the permit process. The package treatment plant has been specified and ordered. Construction of the public restrooms will take place in early spring, 2009, and construction of the wastewater treatment improvements will take place in late spring, 2009. The Monitoring Plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan have been completed and submitted to the SWRCB for review and approval. Pre-construction monitoring was conducted from March, 2008 through December, 2008 and post-construction monitoring will be conducted from the onset of substantial project benefits through 12/31/09.

Other Public Agency/Private Partners: This project is part of an overall program of water quality improvement in Trinidad Harbor initiated by Trinidad Rancheria and the City of Trinidad. Another element of the program for improvement of water quality at Trinidad Harbor is the replacement of Trinidad Pier in a manner that eliminates urban discharge from the pier surface. Partners in this activity include the California Coastal Conservancy, the Humboldt County Headwaters Community Investment Fund, Humboldt State University, and the BIA (with major funding expected from the SWRCB). Additionally, activities are being undertaken by the City of Trinidad to eliminate urban discharge to the Harbor.

Project Cost: Estimated to be **\$1,700,000**

Project Funding Sources: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Clean Beaches Initiative Funding: **\$1,700,000**

Project Outcomes/Effectiveness/Benefits: The project will be effective in addressing the following issues:

- Surfacing effluent at the Harbor leach field will be corrected by leach field repairs as necessary and by providing advanced wastewater treatment facilities to improve the quality of effluent delivered to the leach field
- Use of the beach as a toilet because of lack of public restroom facilities will be corrected by providing a public restroom facility

Project effectiveness can be demonstrated by the improvement of the bacterial quality of nearshore ocean water, by the removal of portable toilets, and by the reduction in the use of the beach as a restroom.